Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06577 01 OF 02 241405Z

41
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 IO-13

SCCT-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 INRE-00 /105 W
---------- 007236
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1313
INFO SITREP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 28
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON FOUR
COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6577

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 24: PHALANGE, PLO AND ARAB LEAGUE
AGREE ON FURTHER LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS DESPITE FAILURE ICRC ATTEMPPT
EVACUATE TELL ZAATAR; MILITARY LULL CONTINUES

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06577 01 OF 02 241405Z

REF: BEIRUT 6549

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS STATES THAT US IMPLICITLY ADMITS DIRECT CONTACTS WITH PLO. AL DEPUTY KHOLI APPARENTLY SUCCEEDS IN ARRANGING NEW PLO-KATAEB LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS. AL FORCES HAVE ORDERS TO DEPLOYALONG "GREEN LINE" JULY 25 AFTER CEASEFIRE TO BEGIN AT 0800 LOCAL. ONLY NEWS ON SYRIA/PALESTINIAN TALKS IN DAMASCUS, SCHEDULED TO END JULY 24, IS SPECULATION ON SYRIAN HARD LINE AND BELIEF THAT SYRIANS WANT PALESTINIANS DEAL WITH KFOUR FRONT AS LEGITIMATE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. DRAMITIC ICRC ATTEMPT ORGANIZE CONVOY FROM TELL ZAATAR COLLAPSED JULY 24 WHEN CHRISTIAN SIDE ORDERED ICRC RECONNAISSANCE PARTY TO LEAVE AREA AT 1700 LOCAL. MORE RADICAL CHRISTIAN GROUPS, INCLUDING CEDARS OF L
C EP AND NATIONAL LIBERAL
"TIGERS" ARE HOSTILE TO ANY EVACUATION BEFORE SURRENDER OF CAMP. SYRIAN-DOMINATED "ADVANCED GUARDS OF THE ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON" ANNOUNCE STEPS ESTABLISH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN SYRIAN-CONTROLLED PARTS OF COUNTRY. NABAA TENSE AS NEW CLASHES BETWEEN ARMENIANS AND PALESTINIANS/ LEFTISTS DESPITE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT JULY 23. HUGE FIRE EVENING JULY 23 AT DORA GASOLINE AND OIL STORAGE TANKS IN EAST BEIRUT. CONTINUED FIGHTING IN METN. OTHER AREAS STATIC. MORE ELECTRICTY POSSIBLE IN BEIRUT SHORTLLY. END SUMMARY.

2. L'ORIENT LE JOUR FRONT PAGE JULY 24 STATES ON BASIS OF DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN'S JULY 23 PRESS BRIEFING THAT US HAS "FOR THE FIRST TIME... IMPLICITLY ADMITTED THAT THE US HAS BEEN OR IS STILL IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PLO FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING THE DPEPARTURE OF AMERICANS STILL IN LEBANON."

3. AL REPRESENTATIVE HASSAN SABRI KHOLI CONTINUES ORCHESTRATE POLITICAL INITIATIVES. ON JULY 23 HE MANAGED HAVE KATEAB AND PALESTINIANREPRESENTATIVES SIGN ACCORD FOR CEASEFIRE TO BEGIN 0800 HOUS LOCAL JULY 25. ACCORD STIPULATES AL FORCES WILL BE STATIONED ON LINE FROM ALLENBY STREETHROUGH MARTYRS SQUARE TO MUSEUM AND FROM TAYUNI CIRCLE THROUGH CHIAH TO AIRPORT CIRCLE. STATIONING OF FORCES WILL TAKE TWO DAYS AFTER CEASEFIRE IMPLEMENTED. SAUDI COMMANDER AT MUSEUM "GREEN LINE" CONFIRMS HIS FORCES UNDER ORDERS TO BEGIN LATERAL DEPLOYEMENTS ON JULY 25. ACCORD ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

AGREES TO POSITIONING OF AL ELEMENTS IN MUR TOWER IN BEIRUT'S HOTEL DISTRICT AND RIZK TOWER IN ASHRIFFAYEH TO OBSERVE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. ANOTHER MEETING OF ACCORD SIGNERS SCHEDULED JULY 24 FOR DISCUSSIONS ON REOPENING OF AIRPORT AND PORT, AND ARMFAT AND BESHIR GEMAYEL MAY MEET TO CONFIRMAGREEMENTS. KHOLI SHOULD MEET KFOUR LEADERS JULY 24.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

4. PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO SYRIA MET JULY 23 WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AND INTENDTL INCLUDE VISIT AFTER ANOTHER MEETING JULY 24. L'ORIENT LE JOUR DESCRIBES PALESTINIAN DELEGATION AS "MARKING TIME IN DAMASCUS." SYRIANS SAID DEMANDING: 1) SEPARATION OF PALESTINE PROBLEM DISCUSSIONS FROM LEBANESE SETTLEMENT; 2) APPLICATION OF LEBANESE/ PALESTINIAN ACCORDS REGARDLESS OF LEBANESE SOLUTION; 3) ACCEPTANCE OF SYRIAN GUARANTEES ON CONDITIONS OF PALESTINE PRESENCE IN LEBANON; AND RL NO CEASEFIRE BEFORE DEFINITIVE POLITICAL ACCORD REACHED. SYRIAN POSITION REPORTED AS ALSO IMPLYING PALESTINIANS MUST DEAL WITH KDOUR FRONT AS LEGITMATE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. IN LEBANON, KFOUR FOUR PLUS SARKIS RECEIVED ASSAD EMISSARY COL. MOHAMMED KHOLI ON JULY 23.

5. ICRC ADVANCE PARTY, ACCOMPANIED BY KHOLI AND AL COMMANDER GHONEIM WHO, AT KATAEB DEMAND, WENTLALONG TO REPRESENT IMAM MUSA SADR AND MUFTI OF THE REPUBLIC, MANAGED REACH TELL ZAATAR JULY 23. AFTER TWO HOURS REVIEWING SITUATION, DELEGATES FORCED LEAVE CAMPWITHOUT WOUNDED WHEN RIGHTISTS WARNED OF NEW ATTACK. RIGHTISTS CLAIM LEFT USED TRUCE TO FORTIFY ADVANCE POSITIONS. ABOU ARZ, LEADER OF EXTREMIST GUARDIANS OF CEDAR QUOTED AS SAYING, "THAT'S THE LAST TIME THE RED CROSS COMES IN HERE." CEDARS' POSITION WAS THAT WOUNDED SHOULD BE LST TO LEAVE CAMP, AFTER CIVILIANS AND COMBATANTS. NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY "TIGERS" CLAIM PALESTINIANS SEEKING PROLONGED CEASEFIRE FOR TEN DAYS AND DEMAND SURRENDER OF CAMP BEFORE EVACUATION. LEFTIST PRESS OF JULY 24 DENOUNCES RIGHTIST FOR PREVENTING OPERATION. ICRC DIRECTOR HOEFLIGER SAYS HE ESTIMATES SOME THOUSAND CIVIANS STILL IN CAMP, MANY WITH GANGRENE DUE UNATTENDED WOUNDS. HE SAID ABOUT 100 PERSONS GRAVELY WOUNDED, AND OBSERVEDDSEVERAL CASES TETANUS AND
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DEHYDRATION OF CHILDREN. ICRC DESCRIBES JOB OF EVACUATING WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR AS ICRC'S MOST DIFFICULT SINCE WORLD WAR II. AS OF EARLY JULY 24, ICRC DIRECTOR INDICATED SOULD PROBABLY NOT AOTEMPT CONVOY JULY 24, AND STAES THAT HEAVY REPAIR WORK NECESSARY ON ROAD ACROSS "NO MAN'S LAND" INTO CAMP.

6. DE FACTO PARTITION AGAIN ADVANCED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 23 OF ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM IN SYRIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS BY "ADVANCE GUARDS OF THE ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON," GROUP FORMED DURING SYRIA'S JUNE INITIATIVE INTO LEBANON. ADMINISTRATION INTENDED PROVIDE SOCIAL SERVICES. OFFICES SAID ALREADY SET UP IN NORTH AND EAST LEBANON, OPERATED BY SYRIAN AND LEBANESE ARMY OFFICERS. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS JULY 22 CREATION

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

OF WEST BEIRUT LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (SITREP JULY 23), MODELED ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATIN SET UP SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN CHRISTIAN SECTORS. PRESS SPECULATES NEW SYRIAN-DOMINATED LOCAL ADMINISTRATION MAY BE STEP TOWARD PERMANENT SYRIAN PRESENCE ON LEBANESE TERRITORY.

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06577 02 OF 02 241351Z

41
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 IO-13

SCCT-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01 INRE-00 /105 W
---------- 007136
O P 241242Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1314
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 29
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON FOUR
COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6577

7. SITUATION AT TOTALLY ENCIRCLED ENCLAVE OF NABAA CONTINUES

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

DETERIORATE. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF SERIOUS RIGHTIST ATTACK HAS BEGUN. HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE AND RADIO AMCHIT REPORTS FIERCE FIGHTING IN ADJACENT AREAS OF MARACHE, SIS AND TRAD. FIGHTING SAID TO EXTEND FROM NABAA TO SIN EL-FIL AND THROUGH BOURJ HAMMOUD TO DEKOUANE.
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ARMENIANS OF BOURJ HAMMOUD CONTINUE PROTEST THEY ARE ENGAGED IN LEGITIMATE NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENSE. ARMENIAN ACTION AGAINST USE THEIR AREAS AS SUPPLY ROUTES FOR FORWARD POSITIONS BY PALESTIAN/LEFTISTS RESULTS IN INEVITABLE CLASHES. TACHNAK PARTY AND PALESTINIANS/ LEFTISTS SAID TO HAVE SIGNED JULY 23 AGREEMENT FOR CEASEFIRE, WITHDRAWAL FROM EACH OTHER'S TERRITORY, AND OPERATION OF A SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, UNCONFIRMED RADIO AMCHIT REPORT AT 1200 LOCAL JULY 24 REPORTS RENEWED FIGHTING IN AREA.

8. BEIRUT AND SUBURBS HEATED UP GENERALLY JULY 23 AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIED AT NABAA AND SURROUNDING AREAS. MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS OF RESIDENTIAL SECTORS OCCURRED LATE IN DAY WITH SHELLS FROM WEST BEIRUT HITTING JOUNIEH. GASOLINE AND MOTOR OIL STORAGE TANKS AT DORA IN NORTHEAST BEIRUT HIT AND SET AFIRE BY SHELLING. LAA CHAIMS IT SHELLED TANKS IN REPRISAL FOR RIGHTIST ATTACK ON NABAA. IN SUBURBS, BOMBARDMENTS AND LIMITED INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS RECORDED JULY 23 AT CHIAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH. ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE AT HADETH/LAYLAKE, HAY-SELLOM, SAHRAT-CHOUEIFAT, KFARCHIMA, SFEIR AND HONEIN.

9. BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE IN HIGH METN AND WE UNDERSTAND CHRISTIANS PREPARING ASSAULT ON REMAINING PALESTINIAN POSTIONS IN MT. LEBANON. IN CENTRAL MOUNTAINS, COMBAT REPORTED FROM ALEY CAZA WHERE CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS SAID OPPOSED AT ALEY/KAHALE, KOMATIE, BSOUS, BDEDOUN, HOUMALE AND CHOUIT. INCENDIARY BOMBS REPORTEDLY FELL ON ALEY AND BEIT MERI JULY 23. ELSEWHERE SITUATION STATIC. QUIET ON NORTHERN, BEKAA AND WOUTHERN FRONTS.

10. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ELECTRICITY BIZRI SAYS HE EXPECTS TURN ON BEIRUT LIGHTS WITHIN 48 HOURS ON ROTATING PARTIAL BASIS. TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY TONS FUEL, ONE DAY'S SUPPLY FROM JIEH, ARRIVED FOR ZOUK THERMAL ELECTRICAL PLANT. REPAIR OF HIGH TENSION WIRES BEING EXPEDITED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6549
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 24: PHALANGE, PLO AND ARAB LEAGUE AGREE ON FURTHER LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS DESPITE FAILURE ICRC ATTEMPPT
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006